

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 13 and ending on page 2, line 16, with the following paragraph:

This invention proposes another way of fastening the ring on the neck of a vessel.

In this case, the external wall of the skirt is formed with longitudinal external ribs extending ~~at the top~~ over the height of the skirt, these external ribs coming into fitting contact with the internal collar wall.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 3, line 12 and ending on page 3, line 13, with the following paragraph:

According to another embodiment, the internal skirt wall is formed with longitudinal internal ribs extending over the height of at the skirt ~~top~~.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 15 and ending on page 4, line 24, with the following paragraph:

In both embodiments, the fastening device of the invention comprises a retainer ring 1 and a lining collar 2. With reference to Figs. 4a and 4b, they show a vertical cross-section of a fastening device. Although these Figs. 4a and 4b represent the device of Figs. 1 to 3, the general shape of the ring and the collar is the same for the embodiment of Fig. 5. In this case, retainer ~~ring 2~~ ring 1 comprises a skirt 10 extending

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downwards from a radial clamp 16 extending internally to form a snap-on groove 17 provided with a through opening 18 for a pump or valve operating rod. Retainer ring 2 ring 1 can further comprise a sleeve 101 advantageously extending into the extension of skirt 10, upwards from radial clamp 16.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 5, line 1 and ending on page 5, line 8, with the following paragraph:

According to the invention, the external wall 11 of skirt 10 is provided with longitudinal vertical ribs 14 extending over the height ~~at the top~~ of skirt 10. Preferably, the ribs 14 extend throughout the height of skirt 10. This feature is common to both embodiments of Figs. 1 and 5. Ribs 14 radially project outwards from the external wall 11 of the skirt directly adjacent to ribs 14. The number of ribs 14 is at least three, e.g. six as in both embodiments. The ribs are preferably evenly distributed over the periphery of the external wall of skirt 10.

Replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 11 and ending on page 7, line 29, with the following paragraph:

We are now going to refer to Fig. 5 to explain the second embodiment. Retainer ring 1, and more particularly skirt 10 thereof, is also provided with longitudinal ribs 14 extending over the height ~~at the top~~ of the ring on its outside periphery. However, skirt

10 is further provided with internal longitudinal ribs 19 also extending over the height at ~~the top~~ of the skirt. Internal ribs 19 and external ribs 14 are arranged in offset fashion so that one internal rib 19 is located between two ribs 14, and vice versa. As ribs 14 are radially projecting outwards, between the skirt and the collar, at the connecting segments 13, an intermediate clearance 25 is created which extends between external ribs 14. Internal ribs 19 are precisely located at the intermediate clearances 25 so that internal ribs 19 can be displaced or distorted radially outwards without thereby abutting against or distorting the lining collar. This is the case in particular when the ring is installed on a vessel neck 30, as can be seen in Fig. 5. Internal ribs 19 come into fitted abutting contact against the external wall of neck 32 and thus perform fastening through radial fitting. The vessel neck can be formed with a thickening 30 as that of Figs. 4a and 4b as well as with a peripheral cutout 33. However, it can also be perfectly cylindrical as ribs 19 extend at the top of the skirt and come in radial fitting contact with the neck.
